B. COUNTRY RESULTS

1. *France*

(a) *Past trends*

Between 1950 and 1965, the total fertility rate in France remained above 2.7 children per woman, but later dropped by 40 per cent, from 2.85 in 1960-1965 to 1.72 in 1990-1995. During that period the life expectancy at birth, for both sexes combined, increased from 66.5 years in 1950-1955 to 77.1 years in 1990-1995. One of the consequences of these changes was that the proportion of the population aged 65 or older increased from 11.4 per cent in 1950 to 15.0 per cent in 1995, while the proportion of the population aged 15-64 remained nearly constant at nearly 66 per cent. France was the country with the oldest population at the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1901 the potential support ratio was 7.8 persons aged 15-64 for each person aged 65 or older. It declined further to 5.8 in 1950 and to 4.4 in 1995.

(b) *Scenario I*

Scenario I, the medium variant of the 1998 United Nations projections, assumes a total of 525,000 net immigrants from 1995 to 2020 and none after 2020. It projects that the total population of France would increase from 58.0 million in 1995 to 61.7 million in 2025, and decline to 59.9 million in 2050 (the results of the 1998 United Nations projections are shown in the annex tables). At that date 525,000 persons (0.9 per cent of the total population) would be post-1995 migrants or their descendants. The population aged 15-64 would increase from 38.0 million in 1995 to 39.9 million in 2010 and then decrease to 34.6 million in 2050. The population aged 65 or older would keep increasing, from 8.7 million in 1995 to 15.4 million in 2040, before declining slightly to 15.3 million in 2050. As a result, the potential support ratio would decrease by nearly half, from 4.4 in 1995 to 2.3 in 2050.

(c) *Scenario II*

Scenario II, which is the medium variant with zero migration, uses the fertility and mortality assumptions of the medium variant of the 1998 United Nations projections, but without any migration to France after 1995. The results are very similar to those of scenario I. The total population of France would increase from 58.0 million in 1995 to 61.1 million in 2025 and then start decreasing, to 59.4 million in 2050. The population aged 15-64 would increase from 38.0 million in 1995 to 39.6 million in 2010, and then decrease to 34.3 million in 2050. The population aged 65 or older would keep increasing, from 8.7 million in 1995 to 15.3 million in 2040, before declining slightly to 15.2 million in 2050. As a result, the potential support ratio would decrease by nearly half, from 4.4 in 1995 to 2.3 in 2050.

(d) *Scenario III*

Scenario III keeps the size of the total population constant at its maximum of 61.1 million in 2025. In order to achieve this, it would be necessary to have 1.5 million immigrants between 2025 and 2050, an average of 60,000 per year. By 2050, out of a total population of 61.1 million, 1.8 million, or 2.9 per cent, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

(e) *Scenario IV*

Scenario IV keeps the size of the population aged 15-64 constant at its maximum of 39.6 million in 2010. For this to happen, 5.5 million immigrants would be needed between 2010 and 2050, an average of 136,000 per year. By 2050, out of a total population of 67.1 million, 7.8 million, or 11.6 per cent, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

(f) *Scenario V*

Scenario V does not allow the potential support ratio to decrease below the value of 3.0. In order to do this, no immigrants would be needed until 2020, and 16.0 million immigrants would be needed between 2020 and 2040, an average of 0.8 million per year during that period. By 2050, out of a total population of 81.7 million, 22.4 million, or 27 percent, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

(g) *Scenario VI*

Scenario VI keeps the potential support ratio at its 1995 value of 4.4. In order to achieve this, 32.1 million immigrants would be needed from 2000 to 2025, an average of 1.3 million per year, and 60.9 million immigrants from 2025 to 2050, an average of 2.4 million per year. By 2050, out of a total population of 187 million, 128 million, or 68.3 per cent, would be post-1995 immigrants or their descendants.

(h) *Additional considerations*

As a point of comparison, the official net immigration recorded in France was an average of 76,000 per year for 1990-1994 and an average of 39,000 per year for 1995-1998. Thus, the number of migrants needed to prevent a decline in the total size of the population (scenario III) would be comparable to the past experience of immigration to France. Furthermore, the number of migrants that would be needed to keep constant the size of the population of labour-force age (scenario IV) is about double the level experienced in the early 1990s. In addition, under scenario IV, in 2050 the proportion of post-1995 immigrants and their descendants within the total population (11.6 per cent) would be comparable to the proportion of foreign-born that exists currently (10.4 per cent in 1990). Figure 9 shows, for scenarios I, II, III and IV, the population of France in 2050, indicating the share that consists of post-1995 migrants and their descendants.

However, the number of immigrants needed to keep the potential support ratio at its 1995 level would be vastly larger than any previously experienced migration flow, 20 to 40 times the annual numbers of the last 10 years. Furthermore, more than two thirds of the resulting population in 2050 would be composed of post-1995 immigrants and their descendants.

In the absence of migration, the figures show that it would be necessary to raise the upper limit of the working-age to 69 years to obtain in 2050 a potential support ratio of 3.0 in 2050 and to about 74 years in order to obtain in 2050 the same potential support ratio observed in France in 1995, which was 4.4 persons of working-age per each older person past working-age. Increasing the activity rates of the population, if it were possible, would only be a partial palliative to the decline in support ratio due to ageing. If the activity rates of all men and women aged 25 to 64 should increase to 100 per cent by 2050, this would make up for only 35 per cent of the loss in the active support ratio resulting from the ageing of the population.

TABLE 18. POPULATION INDICATORS FOR FRANCE BY PERIOD FOR EACH SCENARIO

Scenario	*I*	*II*	*III*	*IV*	*V*	*VI **
Period	*Medium variant*	*Medium variant with zero migration*	*Constant total population*	*Constant age group 15-64*	*Ratio 15-64/65+ not less than 3.0*	*Constant ratio 15-64/65 years or older*
			A. Average annual number of migrants (thousands)			
1995-2000	40	0	0	0	0	*842*
2000-2025	13	0	0	114	157	*1 282*
2025-2050	0	0	59	105	485	*2 301*
2000-2050	7	0	29	109	321	*1 792*
1995-2050	10	0	27	99	292	*1 705*
			B. Total number of migrants (thousands)			
1995-2000	200	0	0	0	0	*4 210*
2000-2025	325	0	0	2 838	3 917	*32 054*
2025-2050	0	0	1 473	2 621	12 120	*57 530*
2000-2050	325	0	1 473	5 459	16 037	*89 584*
1995-2050	525	0	1 473	5 459	16 037	*93 794*
			C. Total population (thousands)			
1950	41 829	-	-	-	-	-
1975	52 699	-	-	-	-	-
1995	58 020	-	-	-	-	-
2000	59 080	58 879	58 879	58 879	58 879	*63 310*
2025	61 662	61 121	61 121	64 442	65 283	*105 188*
2050	59 883	59 357	61 121	67 130	81 719	*187 193*
			D. Age group 0-14 (thousands)			
1950	9 498	-	-	-	-	-
1975	12 594	-	-	-	-	-
1995	11 326	-	-	-	-	-
2000	11 047	11 009	11 009	11 009	11 009	*12 182*
2025	10 588	10 495	10 495	11 399	11620	*21 788*
2050	10 012	9 924	10 393	11 572	14 850	*38 396*
			E. Age group 15-64 (thousands)			
1950	27 569	-	-	-	-	-
1975	33 004	-	-	-	-	-
1995	37 986	-	-	-	-	-
2000	38 620	38 488	38 488	38 488	38 488	*41 593*
2025	37 686	37 355	37 355	39 625	40 247	*67 847*
2050	34 586	34 282	35 493	39 625	50 152	*121 047*
			F. Age group 65+ (thousands)			
1950	4 762	-	-	-	-	-
1975	7 101	-	-	-	-	-
1995	8 708	-	-	-	-	-
2000	9 413	9 381	9 381	9 381	9 381	*9 535*
2025	13 388	13 271	13 271	13 417	13 416	*15 554*
2050	15 285	15 151	15 234	15 932	16 717	*27 750*
			G. Potential support ratio 15-64/65+			
1950	5.79	-	-	-	-	-
1975	4.65	-	-	-	-	-
1995	4.36	-	-	-	-	-
2000	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	*4.36*
2025	2.81	2.81	2.81	2.95	3.00	*4.36*
2050	2.26	2.26	2.33	2.49	3.00	*4.36*

** Scenario VI is considered to be demographically unrealistic.*

FRANCE

Figure 8. Age-sex structures by scenario for 2000, 2025 and 2050
(*Population in millions*)

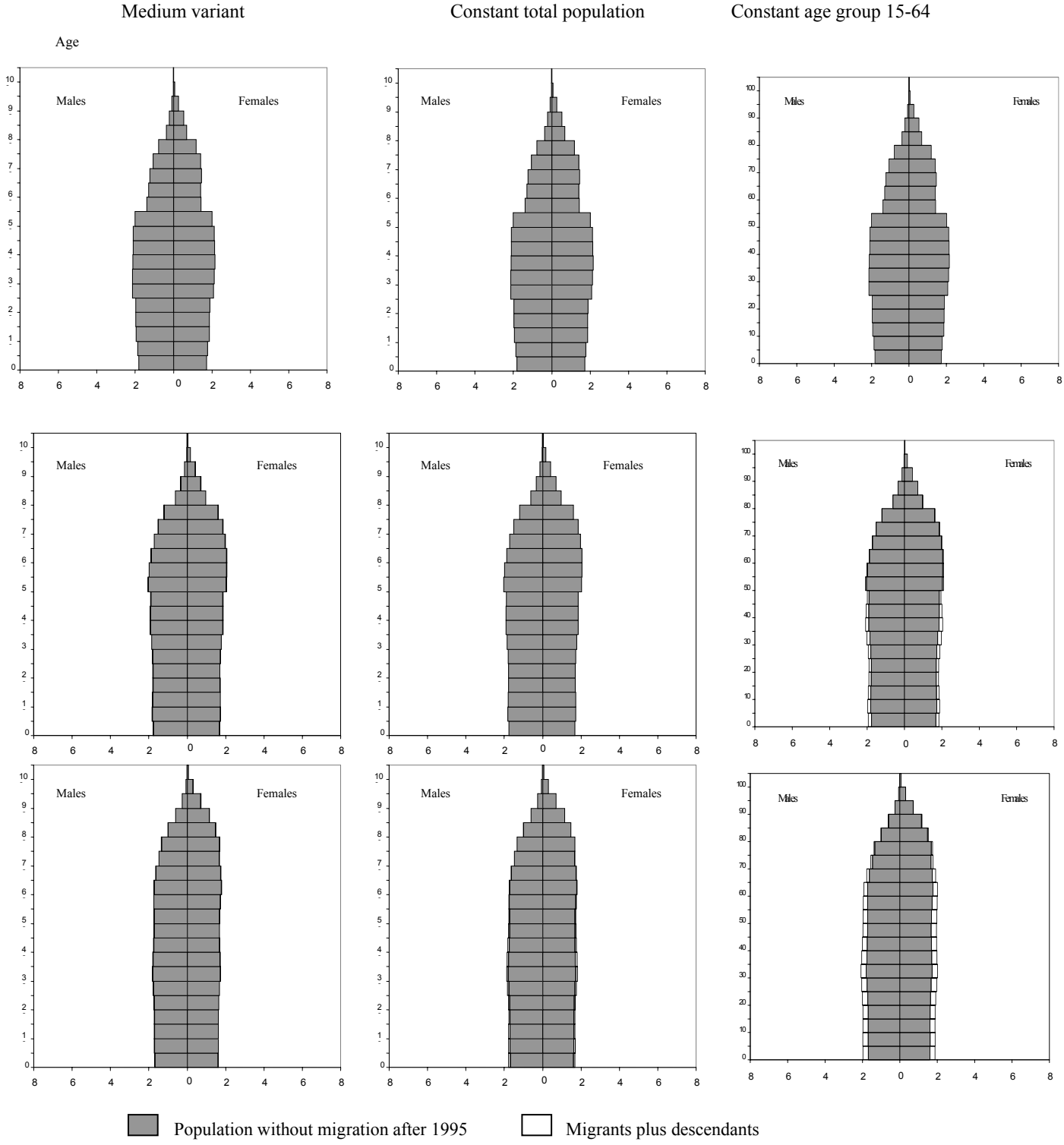
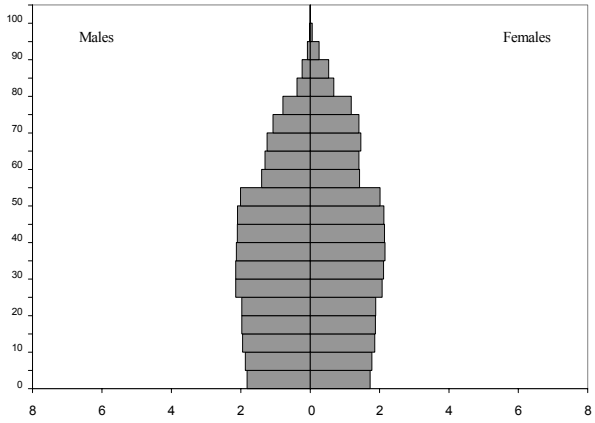
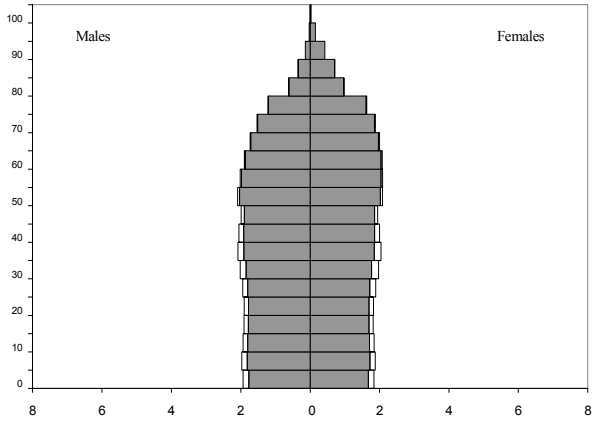
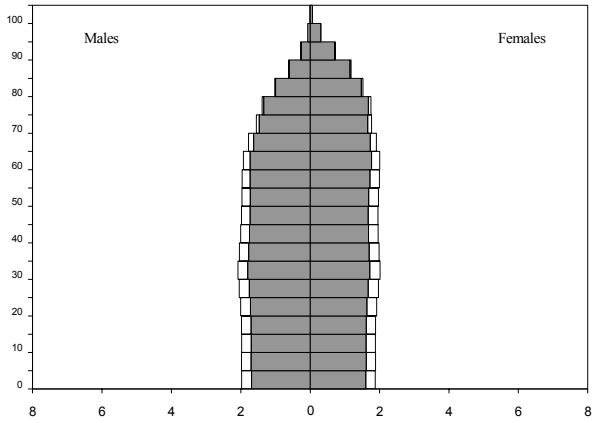


Figure 8 (continued)

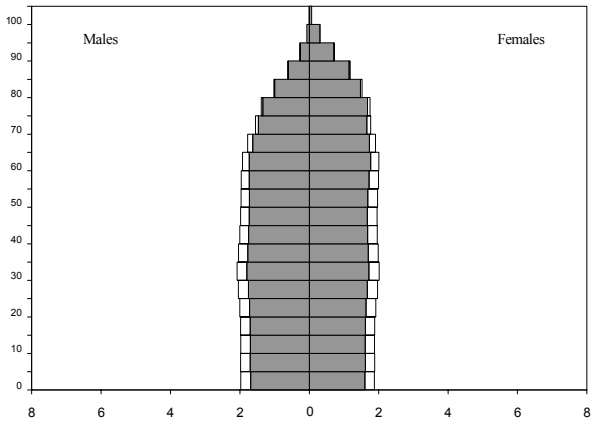
Ratio 15-64/65+
not less than 3.0

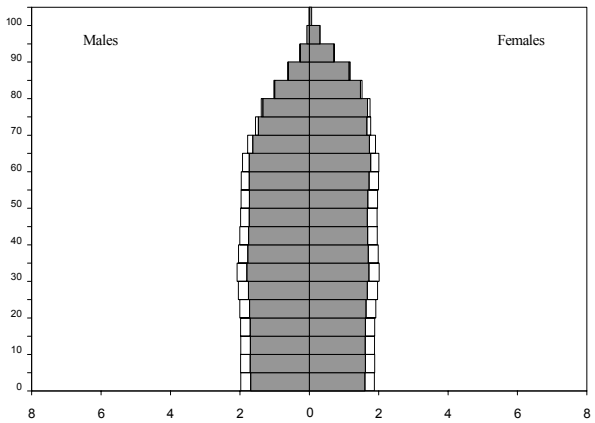






Constant ratio
15-64/65 years or older





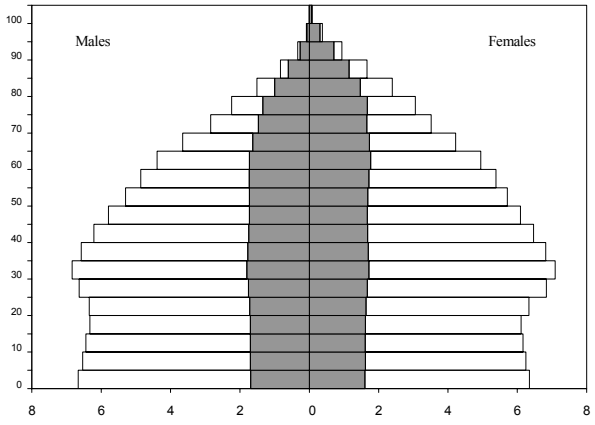
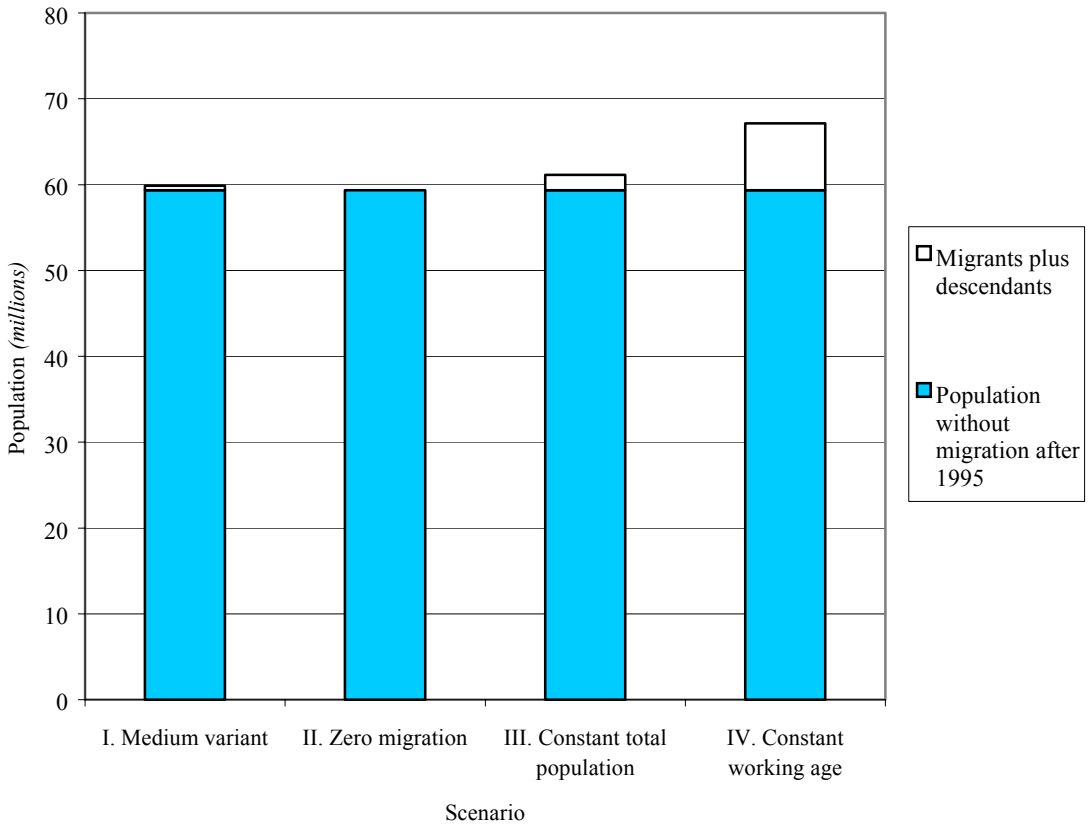



Figure 9. Population of France in 2050, indicating those who are post-1995 migrants and their descendants, by scenario